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Sci-Tech News

Volume 43 | Issue 2

Article 5

April 1989

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Recommended Citation

Alexander, Carol (1989) "Tracking Issues Through Legi-Slate and Washington Alert," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 43: Iss. 2, Article 5.
Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol43/iss2/5>

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Tracking Issues Through Legi-Slate and Washington Alert

Carol Alexander

Government Relations Committee
Science-Technology Division

From time to time we will highlight key sources of current information on legislation and politics of interest to SLA members to assist in tracking national and local issues. Two of the most popular of the national data bases used for monitoring federal legislation are *Legi-Slate* and *Washington Alert*.

Legi-Slate is The Washington Post Company's online service covering Congress and the *Federal Register*. The service was established in 1978 and provides full text of all bills, votes of the members of the U.S. Congress, announcements in the *Federal Register*, news items from *The Washington Post*, biographies and other political information. The data base holds more than 200,000 records, and is updated daily when Congress is in session.

The key features of *Legi-Slate* include the following files:

1. Congressional Service
2. Bill Text Service
3. *Federal Register*
4. Member Profile and Rating
5. News Service
6. Press Briefing

Bills and resolutions are normally available

online on the same day that printed copies become available from the Government Printing Office. *Legi-Slate* also provides online access to committee schedules and witness lists.

Further information is available from the contact point: *Legi-Slate*, 111 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20001, phone: (202) 898-2300.

Washington Alert is the online service of Congressional Quarterly, Inc. This data base provides current information for those interested in monitoring government affairs on a daily basis. It tracks floor proceedings abstracted from the *Congressional Record*, roll call votes, and documents released by the Congressional committees. *Washington Alert* is organized by Menus, as shown below:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 1. The Master Menu | 6. Document |
| 2. Schedule | 7. Vote |
| 3. Action | 8. Profile |
| 4. Bill Status | 9. News |
| 5. Weekly Report | |

Further information on this service is available from *Washington Alert*, 1414 22nd St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, phone (202) 887-6353.

Marketing Swap & Shop

Back by popular demand, the second Marketing Swap and Shop will take place on Monday, June 12, 12:30 - noon, at the SLA Conference in New York City! This year's poster sessions will include:

Rita Ayers, The DuPont Company.

"Free" to Fee — Quality + Marketing = Success

Molly Collins and Rich Bartl, Eastman Kodak Company. Before and After: Image Enhancement for the Information Center

Monica Ertel and Jane Oros, Apple Computer, Inc. A Tour of the Stacks: HyperCard in Libraries

Gust Perry, Houghton Mifflin Co.

Why Are Flamingoes Pink and Library Guides Inherently Boring? or How the Designing Librarian can Captivate her Target Market

Cindy A. Pitchon, Franklin Mint.

The Role of Newsletters in Information Marketing

Charlotte Wilson, U.S. league of Savings Institutions. I Did It My Way!